

REMARKS

The undersigned notes with appreciation the courtesies extended by Examiner Gibson during the telephonic interview conducted on February 7, 2004.

During the interview, the undersigned and the Examiner discussed the objections raised in sections 2 and 3 of the Office Action and agreed that the above amendments would address all objections raised. Support for the amendments is found, for example, in paragraph 00023 on page 7 of the specification.

Additionally, the Examiner indicated that the proposed change clarifying that the weighing pan is a pan of "a laboratory balance" would patentably distinguish the claims over the art of record. Support for this amendment is found, for example, in paragraphs 0003 and 0004 of the specification.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments and allowance of the application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below in the event that there are any questions concerning this response or the application in general.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: February 16, 2005

By: John F. Guay
John F. Guay
Registration No. 47,248

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620